

3P HIKE FOR UK'S STRIVERS

EXCLUSIVE by MATT DATHAN, Political Correspondent

MILLIONS of self-employed workers are facing a 3p tax rise.

The Chancellor is set to target White Van Man to plug a £4.5 billion black hole.

Philip Hammond is considering hiking National Insurance payments on their profits by three per cent in next week's Budget.

The proposed rise, from nine to 12 per cent, would raise more than £5 billion over the next Parliament.

But it would mean tradesmen earning £40,000 a year would face an £80 a month rise in their tax bill.

Even those earning £12,000 a year would see their monthly bill rise by £10.

The number of self-employed has soared by a fifth since 2010, to nearly five million.

But the Treasury is concerned it is losing out as a growing number of workers register as personal service companies to lower bills.

Any move to hit White Van Man faces a backlash in the Tory heartlands.

One in ten workers in Prime Minister Theresa May's Maidenhead constituency would be clobbered and nearly 6,000 in the Chancellor's Runnymede and Weybridge constituency in Surrey would suffer.

The proposals have heaped pressure on Mr Hammond to deliver more for struggling people, dubbed the just about managing, in his upcoming Budget.

He already faces calls to use an extra £27 billion post-Brexit economy windfall to pay for increased social care costs and to soften the blow of business rate rises.

Tory MP Jacob Rees-Mogg slammed it as a new pasty-tax, a reference to George Osborne's failed attempt to raise VAT to 20 per cent on hot takeaway grub.

He said: "It hits the entrepreneurial spirit and damages the economy and tax revenues in the long run."

"I think it's a very short-sighted approach," Iain

WHITE VAN TAX GRAB

Phil targets self-employed

McCluskey, of accountants PwC, said: "The Chancellor is worried the tax base is going to be eroded if the tax position for self-employed people is more favourable than for employed people."

"You've got to strike the balance here between encouraging an entrepreneurial economy and protecting your tax base."

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HAVE A CARE

PHILIP Hammond was last night urged to save social care from the "brink of collapse" with a £1.5 billion Budget Day boost.

A cross-party committee called on the Chancellor to bring forward funding earmarked for 2019-2020.

They also urged him to find about £4.5 billion for the care budget between now and the end of parliament.

Labour's Clive Betts said councils had to do "less for less". The Local Government Association said the case for new funds is overwhelming.

£40 rise in monthly tax bill for the average British plumber

Chancellor... as White Van Man

Fly-tipper blitz plea

PHILIP Hammond is being urged to hand councils millions to fight fly-tipping.

Only 2,135 people were convicted last year despite nearly a million incidents.

Keep Britain Tidy said a crackdown would bring in revenue from fines and slash the £50 million annual fly-tipping bill.

It called for tougher punishments. At present 95 per cent of fines are less than £1,000.



'Jane Bond'... new ad

Woman 'Bond' in first MI6 film ads

By TOM NEWTON DUNN

MI6 is releasing its first ever cinema ad – but the star is more Jane Bond than James.

The 58-second film, with the slogan "But She Could", shows an ethnic minority British woman florist.

New MI6 chief Alex Younger – know as C – said: "I want everyone to know that, regardless of background, if you have the skills we need and share our values, there is a future for you in MI6."

But critics called the ad confusing and blasted Mr Younger for giving the first ever interview by a C to The Guardian – which published secrets from CIA traitor Edward Snowden and Julian Assange's Wikileaks.

An angry senior government figure said: "What the hell are MI6 playing at? Its so naive."

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

JUSTIN LEE COLLINS — AN APOLOGY

IN an article "Airwave Goodbye To JLC" (May 17, 2016) we mistakenly said that Justin Lee Collins had been sacked from his job at internet radio station Fubar because he had behaved in a sexist way towards his female co-workers. We wish to make clear that JLC did not behave in this way and has not been sacked from Fubar. We apologise to JLC and have agreed to pay him damages.

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MOSUL EXODUS

Thousands fled Mosul yesterday as Iraqi forces advanced against IS north of a military base near the airport.

SIR PATRICK U.S. 'SWITCH'

SIR Patrick Stewart has applied for US citizenship — because he wants to "fight and oppose" President Donald Trump.

The X-Men movie hero, 76, who found fame in Star Trek, said he was hamstrung by being a Brit. He confirmed on US TV: "I am now applying for citizenship."

RISE OF THE PENSIONERS

NEARLY a quarter of Brits will be over 65 within 30 years, it is forecast.

The number of pensioners will explode from 11.6 million now to 18.7 million by 2045. That will be 24.6 per cent of Brits, the Office for National Statistics said.

Pensioners currently make up less than 18 per cent of the population.

Experts said a changing society was the "most significant challenge" facing the Government. Baroness Altmann warned: "The cost will be higher taxes for the young."

PILL HABIT H.I.V. BOOST

HIV experts have increased treatment success rates by almost 18 per cent.

They devised a scheme to help patients take their medication regularly. Irregular use can see the virus developing into Aids.

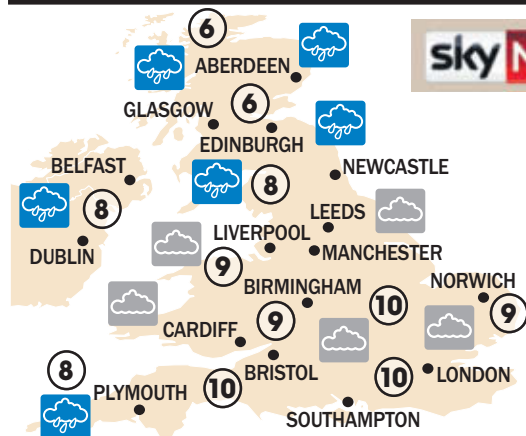
Dutch researcher Prof Marijn de Bruin said: "Our intervention has proved to be very successful."

MAY IN KIDS LAW U-TURN

CHILD protection reforms launched by David Cameron just one year ago have now been axed by Theresa May.

Education chiefs scrapped plans to let councils opt out of statutory laws and test their own ways of working with families.

Shadow Education Secretary Angela Rayner said: "These dangerous proposals should never have been made." The Lib Dems accused ministers of "sneaking out" the U-turn. Ex-Tory children's minister Tim Loughton called the plans a "step too far".



sky NEWS HD

WEATHER with NAZANEEN GHAFAR



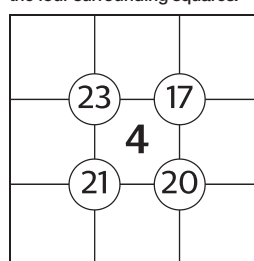
TODAY: Rain for Scotland and Northern Ireland, some heavy, and snow over the Scottish hills. Bright, sunny spells for England and Wales once rain in the east clears, but showers will spread into the west.

TONIGHT: Heavy rain in northern Scotland and showery in Wales, northern and western parts of England and Northern Ireland. Rain moving into south-west Britain during the early hours.

OUTLOOK: Rain, moving north-eastwards over England and Wales on Sunday, with sunny spells and blustery showers in the south later. A rather showery day on Monday with some sunny spells too.

SUJIKO

To play Sujiko, enter the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the total in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding squares.



PUZZLES: PAGES 43-45

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Today's birthdays

POSH and Becks' eldest son **BROOKLYN BECKHAM**, 18, above left, and actress **PATSY KENSIT**, 49, above right.

● Last night's winning Health Lottery numbers were 10, 17, 25, 30, 44. Bonus: 38. Last night's winning EuroMillions numbers were 2, 11, 29, 30, 47. Lucky Stars: 1, 12.